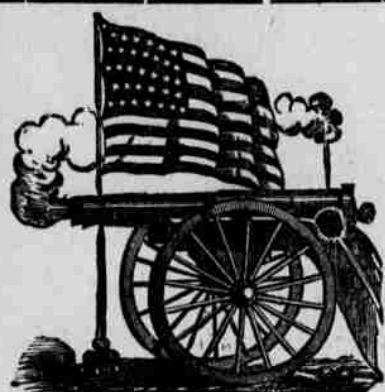


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AMERICAN HOME MARKET.

The view of many public men that the final action of congress on the tariff will not materially affect the business interests of the country as a whole is interestingly sustained by some figures just compiled by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. The paramount value of the vast home market furnished by the American people is strikingly shown by the fact that not only does the United States government export much less than 10 per cent of its manufactured products, but imports less than 5 per cent of the total value of these products. While the gross amounts are steadily increasing, the percentage is steadily decreasing, showing that the home market is expanding with great rapidity and that the foreign market does not justify so much of the revolutionary and demoralizing agitation which its magnified value inspires.

Figures are proverbially dry, but when they prove the nearer and nearer approach to practical domestic sufficiency of the home market they are not entirely devoid of interest and certainly not of significance. Since the factory products of the country in 1850 amounted to less than one-fifth those of twenty years later, and since those of 1870 were worth less than one-fifth those of twenty years thereafter, it is manifestly unwise to go farther back than thirty years for purposes of comparison. Since 1880 the percentage of exports to value of manufactured products has steadily fallen, though the aggregate has been largely increased, showing that an enormously expanding home market has consumed the major portion of the billions of dollars worth of products manufactured, in spite of the immense foreign markets which have been developed during the same period. —Kansas City Journal.

HARMONIZER OF HEARTS.

That was a pretty tribute which Mrs. "Stonewall" Jackson paid to President Taft when she called him "the harmonizer of all our hearts." This country really needs more harmonizers and fewer bullies. It is a country of such widely divergent views, of so many sections and communities, of such diametrically opposed theories and standpoints, of such conflicting interests, that the harmonizer is the man who, as a rule, can render the greatest service. "Big sticks" are implements of egoism. Subserviency and weakness must always be ineffectual. Narrow-mindedness and bigotry and sectional hatred and class prejudice and "class consciousness" only make matters worse, giving new life to dying antagonisms and reviving slumbering animosities. What is needed is a harmonizer of hearts—not an adroit politician to smooth away partisan difficulties, not a plausible demagogue to appeal to universal self-interest, not a sophistical reasoner to convince the head, but a harmonizer who touches the nation's hearts.

This necessity is what gives to Mrs. Jackson's phrase such a happy pertinency. It was used with special reference, of course, to Mr. Taft's kindly tact and broad unsectionalism in the light of Southern problems, but it has a universal application wider than any section. There is something more profoundly interesting than a mere coincidence in the fact that two eminent Southern Democrats have held the portfolio once held by Jefferson Davis. Memorial day was never so elaborately celebrated as this year, yet we hear no more of "the Southern brigadiers in the saddle," even when appointed to the secretaryship of war, and the "bloody shirt" is no longer waved. There is neither proscription nor surrender in the

attitude of the federal administration to the South. There has been some "harmonizing" done which is much to be preferred to force bills and the returning of Confederate battle flags as a bit of bravado. Mr. Taft has not done all the "harmonizing," but he has done a good share, and only one-sixteenth of his administration has gone by. —Journal.

WHAT SIX HOURS MEANS.

"The time has come," La Follette said. "To talk of many things: Of shoes—and shrimps—and quinine pills—Of artificial wings; For hours and hours I'll tell of this. Protective tariff brings." (With customary apologies.) It would have been distinctly disappointing had not the senator from Wisconsin delivered himself of his burden of tariff ferment. With the Chautauqua season almost upon us, the chronic dissenter could not have let such an opportunity pass without reaping full advantage of its possibilities for self-exploitation. That Senator La Follette had the constitutional right to deliver a tariff speech in the upper house at Washington is, of course, beyond dispute. In fact, this constitutional right is one of the necessary evils of our form of government.

But the little pompadour statesman not only delivered a tariff speech of wearying dullness—he talked for hours and hours. To be explicit, he talked for six hours, and even then wasn't at the end of their resources although faint from exertion. But at the end of his talk he had contributed nothing of value to the elucidation of the tariff question. He made a straight Bryan anti-tariff speech, as out of place and useless as one could imagine. The senate is committed to a protective tariff, and instead of taking part in the debate upon schedules the senator from Wisconsin merely attacked the entire policy of protection.

Six hours of the time of the United States senate were wasted by the windy harangue of La Follette. Six hours of the nation were thrown away. Has any senator the moral right to exploit himself at such a cost? To anyone with less egotism and selfishness, this side of the question would present itself. But La Follette stood upon his constitutional rights to make a campaign speech which must be printed at government expense and sent out broadcast through the United States mails as a campaign document.

This practice has become an almost intolerable nuisance. Members of the senate and the house of representatives have grown into the habit of delivering long and ill timed speeches to which no one listens and which are only useful when printed and distributed under government franks for personal political purposes. When the whole business world is waiting for the completion of the tariff bill and thousands and thousands of workmen are looking with eagerness to the renewal of industrial activity, it becomes a serious matter when a political demagogue stands in the United States senate and pours out a speech lasting six hours. Six hours means a day lost to the workman and the factory. The value of six hours' work to the wage earner means food and clothing for his family. The wages that should be earned in that six hours would pay much of the tariff of each family under the protective system, especially as the protective system means more money for six hours' work here in America than twelve hours' work would bring in free trade countries. —Kansas City Journal.

Some Sewing.

A tramp went to the back door of a Topeka house and knocked. The lady came to the door. "Please, mum," said the tramp, "could you do a little sewing for me?" "With pleasure," answered the kind-hearted lady. "What sewing would you like to have me do for you?" "I have a button here," replied the tramp. "If you'll sew a pair of pants onto it I'll be very much obliged."

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MARCH OF THE STAR OF EMPIRE.

In one of its aspects the Seattle Exposition illustrates how fast and how far the center of the country's social gravity has moved within the lifetime of men who are still living. The Chicago Fair of 1893, celebrated the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the New World. That at Jamestown in 1937 marked the tercentenary of the planting of the first permanent colony of English-speaking people in the Western Hemisphere. At Philadelphia in 1876 was observed the centennial of the first step which led to the birth of the first and the greatest of the nations of the continent—the nation which is the model of every one of the twenty independent countries which are here to-day. It was a nation, however, which had the Mississippi for its western border. At St. Louis in 1904 was observed the hundredth year of the time when, crossing the Mississippi, the nation started on its march to the Pacific. A detail in that march was recalled by the fair at Portland, Ore., in 1905, which marked the lapse of a hundred years since Lewis and Clark, the first of the nation's advance couriers in the march to the big Western ocean, reached the mouth of the Columbia.

While the fair at Seattle is not a centenary milestone in history, it was suggested by the fortieth anniversary of the annexation of Alaska, which cycle was reached in 1907. As that date, however, was too near the Lewis and Clark celebration at Portland to be of much national interest, and also as not enough time was at the disposal of the projectors of the fair at the time they first thought of it, they postponed the date two years. Thus we have the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition taking place forty-two years after the event which furnished its motive. When, in the treaty with England in 1846, the United States obtained undisputed possession of the region comprised in the present states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and those parts of Montana and Wyoming which are west of the Rocky Mountains, and when, in the treaty with Mexico in 1848, we gained New Mexico and California, the country's western border was established at the Pacific, and the first incentive was furnished toward the acquisition of islands out in that big sea. The stimulus oceanward scored its first achievement in the purchase of Alaska in 1867, by which we gained all of Russia's territory in North America, including a crescent of islands stretching over into the shadow of Asia. The annexation of Hawaii became an aspiration immediately after the acquisition of Oregon and California, but it was deferred to

1898, during the war with Spain. As a consequence of that war the Philippines came under the flag, and the boundaries of the United States as they exist to-day were rounded out.

As a result of the successive acquisition of territory the geographical center of the United States has been swung far to the westward of the Mississippi. That point, leaving Alaska and all the islands of the Pacific out of the reckoning, is in Northern Kansas. As recently as 1850 the population center of the country, in its swing westward, was in West Virginia. It had moved into Ohio by the time of Lincoln's first election. It was in Central Indiana when Roosevelt went to the presidency. It will still be in Indiana, though nearer to the western border of the state, when the enumeration of the inhabitants is made next year. Thousands of persons now living will see the population center cross the Mississippi. It is only a little over half a century ago when the country saw the inauguration of the first president, Lincoln, who was born west of the Alleghenies. All of the presidents who have been elected since then, except Cleveland and Roosevelt, have been born in the Mississippi Valley. One speaker of the House, Henderson of Iowa, has been furnished by the region west of the Mississippi. Three times has one of the great parties come to the trans-Mississippi country for its presidential candidate. Both candidates and presidents from this region will be frequent in the coming time. Exclusive of Alaska and the islands of the Pacific about 60 per cent of the country's territory lies west of the Mississippi. More than half of the country's exports come from this locality. The original states which established the country's independence are no longer dominant in its councils. For nearly half a century the social center has been in the states of the Mississippi watershed north of the Ohio and north of Missouri's southerly boundary. The Seattle fair will bring to the people's attention to the fact that the country now fronts westward as well as eastward. It does not require the imagination of a Seward, a Benton or a Gilpin to realize that children are now born who will see the Pacific Coast States the field of a greater industrial and social activity than the Atlantic Seaboard has yet known. —St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Very heavy rains in Iowa recently did much damage to railroad and other property. We are looking for them down this way at any time.

Kentucky is still keeping up its record for killing.

President Taft is making a record as a golf player.